United Nations S/PV.6589

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6589th meeting

Friday, 22 July 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wittig	(Germany)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Vaz Patto
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2011/422)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2011/422)

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/422, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari.

Mr. Gambari: I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the other members of the Security Council for this opportunity to brief the Council on the situation in Darfur.

The Council has before it the Secretary-General's most recent report on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which includes a summary of developments in Darfur, including updates on the Doha negotiations, the Darfur-based political process, and the operations and deployments of UNAMID.

Considerable progress has been made in the Doha negotiations since I last briefed the Council at its meeting in Khartoum on 21 May. As all present are aware, the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference took place in Doha, Qatar, from 27 to 31 May. The Conference brought together more than 500 delegates representing a cross-section of Darfur stakeholders, including internally displaced persons, refugees, representatives of civil society, the Government of the Sudan, elected officials, tribal leaders and the Darfuri diaspora.

UNAMID supported the event by facilitating the selection and transportation within Darfur of 245 representatives of civil society and by deploying UNAMID personnel to Doha to serve as committee chairpersons, presenters and rapporteurs.

The main outcome of the Conference was the endorsement by the stakeholders of the draft Doha document for peace in Darfur as the basis for reaching a permanent ceasefire and a comprehensive and inclusive peace settlement in Darfur. On 14 July, as the Representative of the Secretary-General, I participated, and signed as a witness, in a ceremony in Doha at which the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and the Government of the Sudan signed the Doha document for peace in Darfur. The ceremony, which was presided over by the Emir of Qatar, was witnessed by the Presidents of Chad, Eritrea, Burkina Faso and the Sudan, as well as by senior representatives of the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, among other dignitaries.

Allow me to use this occasion to express my gratitude to the Emir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and to the State of Qatar for their enormous generosity and steadfast commitment to the Darfur peace process. Let me also acknowledge the personal commitment of Minister Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud of Qatar and Djibrill Bassolé, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, for their tireless efforts to assist the parties to reach an inclusive and comprehensive agreement for peace in Darfur.

On 6 July, I was requested by the United Nations, in consultation with the African Union, to assume the role of Joint Chief Mediator ad interim. In this capacity, I wish to inform the Council that while the signing of the Doha document for peace in Darfur by the two parties represents an important step forward in the quest for sustainable peace and stability in Darfur, it is my view that many daunting challenges remain. Among these are: first, how to continue engagement of the holdout armed movements the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Minni Minawi, and obtain the agreement of the Government of the Sudan with respect to a cessation of hostilities, followed by a commitment to discuss in good faith how to achieve an inclusive and comprehensive peace agreement; secondly, to ensure local ownership of the peace process by Darfurians at the grass-roots level through a credible, transparent and free internal political process; and thirdly, the important need for an enabling environment to make possible a Darfur-based process.

With regard to the enabling environment, I agree with the statement made by the Council in its presidential statement of 21 April (S/PRST/2011/8) that the Darfur-based peace process must take place in an environment that will guarantee its credibility and legitimacy by ensuring that all the essential basic civil and political freedoms of participants are guaranteed, including, and especially, freedom of speech, movement and assembly, as well as freedom from harassment, arbitrary arrest, intimidation and freedom from interference by the Government and the armed movements. In this connection, the lifting of the emergency laws by the Government, which it committed publicly to doing in February, will go a long way towards fulfilling most of these key conditions. This is essential if the outcomes of the Darfur-based peace process are to be recognized and accepted by the people of Darfur, thus putting a definitive end to the conflict.

These are by no means simple challenges, but work on them is already in progress. UNAMID will use the intervening period to assist the stakeholders in the dissemination of the Doha document for peace in Darfur to the population of Darfur in order to broaden popular support for it as well as to prepare them for the Darfur-based peace process. UNAMID, in conjunction with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and concerned international stakeholders, will also continue to engage with the Government of the Sudan on the urgent need to establish an enabling environment to facilitate the Darfur peace process.

Since I last briefed the Council in Khartoum in May, the Government of the Sudan and rebel forces fought in the areas of Kutum, Kabkabiya and Shangil Tobaya, in Northern Darfur; El Daein, Labado, Gulobei and Feina, in Southern Darfur; and Golo, Jebel Marra area, in Western Darfur. In Shangil Tobaya, the SLA-Minni Minawi, supported by a breakaway faction of the LJM, has engaged Government of the Sudan forces in an effort to retake the area. Meanwhile, the alliance of factions of SLA-Abdul Wahid, SLA-Minni Minawi and JEM maintain a presence in Labado, Muhajeria and Shaeria. JEM has persisted in its attempts to move northwards towards Mellit, in Northern Darfur, from Southern Darfur, while SLA-Abdul Wahid still maintains a strong presence in Rockero and other areas of Eastern-Western Darfur, in Jebel Marra. Government of the Sudan forces continue to conduct air surveillance missions as well as to position military forces and equipment throughout Northern and Southern Darfur.

On 14 May and 26 June, the leaders of SLA-Minni Minawi and SLA-Abdul Wahid declared joint actions against the Government of the Sudan, thereby posing a further challenge to the security environment in Darfur. Our Mission will continue to monitor these developments closely in view of their likely impact on the civilian population, and to intensify the implementation of its robust strategy for the protection of civilians.

Meanwhile, tribal clashes, a contributing factor in fatality and civilian displacement in Darfur, is now on the decrease due mainly to UNAMID-assisted efforts on the part of all sides to address their causes. Two recorded cases, however, were the 5-6 June fighting between the Zaghawa and Tunjur/Berti/Birgid in areas near Shangil Tobaya, in North Darfur, and the 19 June fighting between the Salamat and Habbaniyah in Nadhif near Buram, in South Darfur. The implementation of the June 2010 truce agreement between the Nawaiba and Misseriya in the Zalingei area of West Darfur is being closely monitored.

With mitigation measures and robust responses consistently pursued by UNAMID, coupled with the security and patrol mechanisms jointly operated by UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan, incidents of attacks and carjacking against United Nations and associated personnel in Darfur have been drastically reduced. I regret to note, however, that while in numerical terms and frequency there has been a considerable reduction in attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian actors since my last briefing to the Council, occasional and fatal attacks still occur. For example, on 30 June, a UNAMID minibus transporting five peacekeepers was attacked by unknown gunmen in El Geneina, West Darfur. One Ethiopian peacekeeper was killed and another injured. Such acts, which constitute war crimes, should not go unpunished. In this regard, the Mission is working with the Government of the Sudan to ensure a full investigation, followed by timely prosecution of the perpetrators, and their punishment if they are found guilty.

After continued engagement with the Government of the Sudan, progress was made regarding the two UNAMID national staff members arrested and detained by Government authorities, despite the provisions of the status-of-forces

agreement. The first national staff member, Ms. Hawa Abdulla Saleh, was released on 12 July after 68 days of detention; the second, Mr. Idriss Abdelrahman Yusuf, arrested on 27 April, was released two days ago, on 20 July, after 85 days in custody.

Meanwhile, impunity continues to be a factor of criminality directed against international personnel in Darfur. However, positive achievements on this issue include the 5 May Special Court sentencing of two individuals to 10 years imprisonment for their involvement in the 2010 kidnapping of foreign aid workers and the carjacking of two vehicles belonging to international non-governmental organizations in South Darfur. We would like to see more such arrests, prosecutions and punishment, as appropriate.

UNAMID carried out 23,999 patrols between 1 April and 30 June, during which the Mission's movements by land were restricted on 68 occasions. Most of the restricted patrols were either in or seeking to enter areas believed by the Government to harbour forces of the armed movements. UNAMID military and police have increased the number of patrols per day from an average of 130 to 160. My target, and my instructions to the military and police, is to increase that number to about 200 patrols a day. Additionally, a number of long- and medium-range patrols are being conducted to new locations, including Jebel Marra, the border between South Darfur and the Republic of South Sudan, and the northern parts of West Darfur. We will continue to address the issue of access with Sudanese authorities and other interlocutors, and to refuse to take "no" for answer when we are stopped.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report, ongoing intermittent clashes between Government and movement forces continue to adversely affect the humanitarian situation, with displacements of civilians reaching an estimate of between 60,000 and 70,000 since the beginning of the year. Despite this, UNAMID has made good progress in improving the humanitarian situation and facilitating humanitarian access in Darfur. Restrictions of movement in Sector South, imposed by the Government of the Sudan due to the alleged presence of armed movements, were officially lifted on 11 June, and the work of the humanitarian agencies has resumed. Similarly, access for staff and humanitarian relief to the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) resumed without further restrictions.

As I briefed the Council in May, UNAMID's Operation Spring Basket continues, in collaboration with humanitarian agencies, to expand access and help humanitarian agencies to deliver aid to parts of Darfur that have long been inaccessible. Launched on 1 May, the initiative involves aid workers conducting needs assessments and delivering aid.

Operation Spring Basket is now operating in North, South and West Darfur. Nine communities have been visited; many of them are in the Jebel Marra area. The third phase of this operation, taking place in July and August, continues with assessments, but with a focus on revisiting previously visited communities to deliver much-needed humanitarian relief. The impact of Operation Spring Basket is best visible through the opening of humanitarian space, the implementation of humanitarian and protection assessments, enhanced coordination, communication and collaboration among the various stakeholders, relationship-building with the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements, and improved communication with areas previously affected by restricted access.

Voluntary returns to areas where conditions are favourable have been observed over the past few months. In fact, UNAMID, in cooperation with local authorities, the Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission and United Nations agencies, is facilitating the return of 1,150 IDPs from the Kabkabiya area to Saihjanna, 14 kilometres north-west of Kutum. A United Nations Mine Action team completed clearance, and unexploded ordinance disposal activities in the area and return commenced on 10 July. UNAMID is assisting in transporting the most vulnerable members of the community and providing security and water to the returnees.

I think the members of the Council, having heard me speak many times, have noted my absolute dedication and commitment to facilitating the voluntary return of IDPS to their homes. As members know, we have 1.8 million people, out of a total population of 7 million in Darfur, who are in IDP camps. In my view, this is an unnatural and abnormal situation, and we must never agree to normalize it.

On 27 and 28 June, the Darfur International Conference on Water for Sustainable Peace was co-chaired by the Government of the Sudan, UNAMID and the United Nations country team. Government figures and representatives of the United Nations and

other international organizations and donors attended the event. Donors pledged a total of $500 million in support of 65 approved projects to develop a stable and equitable water service system for Darfur. It should be noted that the Government of the Sudan pledged $210 million in support of this initiative. Once again, we of UNAMID, working with the United Nations country team, believe that water is one of the root causes of the conflict in Darfur, and addressing it could very well contribute to sustainable peace in that region.

UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan continue to consult closely on all issues of concern to peace and stability in Darfur. In this regard, I am happy to report progress on the bridging solution that has been found for the issue of UNAMID radio. On 26 June UNAMID finalized the radio bridging solution with the National Public Radio Corporation for the broadcast of UNAMID radio programmes on Al Salaam radio and Darfur state radio stations. This agreement is an interim arrangement until the Government acts on our application for a radio broadcasting license. UNAMID radio is broadcasting two hours daily on Al Salaam radio, with repeat broadcasts at appropriate times on Darfur state radio stations. Broadcasting began on 3 July.

Let me conclude by reassuring the Council that UNAMID will continue to do everything within its mandate to facilitate the return of peace and stability to Darfur. Robust and increased patrols will remain the rule of the Mission, as will continued collaboration with the United Nations country team and humanitarian actors, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, especially to vulnerable communities.

With regards to the peace process itself, the challenge for the international community, led essentially by this body and the African Union Peace and Security Council, is to determine how best to impress on all sides involved in the conflict that a military solution is not the way to go, because if the military path were the way to a solution, we would have found one a long time ago, and we have not. As the Council stressed in its statement of 23 June (SC/10291), every effort should be made to reach a permanent ceasefire and a comprehensive peace agreement as soon as possible on the basis of the Doha document for peace in Darfur.

Finally, that is where we are at the moment from the perspective of UNAMID. It is my sincere hope that, after its deliberations, the Council will provide strong support and guidance to UNAMID during this critical phase of the implementation of its mandate, so that the Mission can consolidate the recent gains made, particularly on the protection of civilians and access and delivery of humanitarian assistance. We also hope that the Council will be able to endorse the Doha document for peace in Darfur. It is not perfect, but at least provides a framework for bringing about a comprehensive and inclusive peace. The imperative of peace is now, as the people of Darfur have suffered for far too long and far too deeply.

The President. I thank Mr. Gambari for his briefing.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.